

EXHIBIT 1DATE 1-25-11HB 230**Trudi Schmidt**

From: "Sarah" <sealjoy12@aol.com>
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Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 12:28 PM

Subject: HB 230 vote to table bill please.

I am speaking on my own time, for myself. I am a staff member of the board of crime control and wish to ask you to vote no, or to table the bill.

The bill is vague to say the least. But my concern is that it will damage the reputation of the staff as fair and impartial while administering federal grants. Since 1999 the department of corrections was awarded 7 million in federal grant funds, some requested by Rep. Gibson. I fear that the appearance of favoritism may damage our reputation as fair and impartial as an unintended consequence of this bill.

The cost saving that may happen by this bill after the proposed amendments seem to have dwindled to a similar saving if we just lost one FTE position but kept the dotted line administrative link to Justice.

I feel your time would be better spent focusing on bills that really save money and make a huge impact on all Montanans in a positive way.

Thank you,
Sarah Price.

Sent from my Samsung Captivate(tm) on AT&T

Trudi Schmidt

From: "Victim Witness 4" <victim-witness4@vwas.org>
To: <trudischmidt@q.com>; <tbelcourt@hotmail.com>; <rmehlhoff@yahoo.com>;
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 <matthiner@hotmail.com>; <rep.bbeck@centurytel.net>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 1:18 PM
Subject: PLEASE vote NO to HB230!

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee for HB230,

I strongly urge you to vote no to this bill. As the Executive Director of a nonprofit victim services organization in Cascade County, I want to express the importance of the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) as a separate entity and the grant funding they disperse to small community programs whose only goal is to assist crime victims, abuse survivors, and their families. Many victim services programs in the state are funded by grants administered through the MBCC. This funding is detrimental to the livelihood and stability of each program. If HB230 is passed, there is a high risk of our small, yet essential programs having to return funding we have received as the federal funding could be revoked. This would put nearly all victim services programs under. For Victim-Witness Assistance Services in Cascade County alone, this could likely mean complete loss of our program that has been growing and expanding for twenty years as of 2011, leaving nearly 1500 victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and various other crimes without the more than 20,000 services our advocates provide in one year. Not only could this devastate the small nonprofits whose missions are to serve and protect crime victims, but prosecutors, law enforcement, and most importantly the victims will also lose the valuable services of advocates who care and are willing to go above and beyond for them to achieve justice and promote accountability. Please call your local advocates and ask if they would be able to handle the possibility of losing funding, even temporarily. And before making a final decision, please imagine if you were to ever need the assistance of an advocate, for yourself, for someone you love, or for someone who reaches out to you for help, how it would feel to have nowhere to turn. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Nichole Griffith
 Executive Director
 Victim-Witness Assistance Services
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